products or consumer durables etc. according to provisions of Visa manual. It has also been decided that all foreign nationals coming for execution of projects/contracts in India will have to come only on Employment Visa and that such Visa will be granted only to skilled and qualified professional appointed at senior level, skilled position such as technical expert, senior executive or in a managerial position etc. and will not be granted for jobs for which a large number of qualified Indians are available. Suitable instructions/guidelines have been issued to the Indian Missions abroad to effectively regulate Employment and Business Visa regimes and ensure that these are issued strictly as per prescribed norms.

As per the guidelines issued by Government, Employment Visa for foreign personnel coming to India for execution of projects/contracts may be granted by Indian Missions to highly skilled and professionals to the extent of 1% of the total persons employed on the project subject to a maximum of 20. However, this has been raised to 1% or maximum of 40 for power and steel sector projects till June, 2010. In case more foreign nationals are required for any project than clearance of Ministry of Labour and Employment is required.

Employment situation in the country

3031. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the employment situation in the country as on day; and

(b) whether the unemployment is increasing and the employment opportunity is being reduced to a great extent in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys, work force on usual status basis has increased from 397 million in 1999-2000 to 459.10 million in 2004-2005.

(b) As per last two quinquennial rounds of surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by NSSO, the estimated number of unemployed persons on usual status basis has increased from 9.04 million in 1999-2000 to 10.84 million in 2004-05. However, the quarterly survey conducted by Labour Bureau on the effect of Economic slowdown on Employment in India (July-September, 2009) in selected sectors *i.e.* textiles, metals, leather, automobiles, gems and jewellery, transport, IT/BPO, handloom/powerloom has indicated that overall employment has increased by about 5 lakh during the quarter as compared to decline in employment by 1.31 lakh during the previous quarter of April-June, 2009.

Less wages to women beedi workers

3032. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the beedi workers are women;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that women beedi workers are getting less wage amount; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the details thereof is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 clearly stipulates the duty of employer to pay equal remuneration to men and women workers for same work or work of a similar nature. The concerned State Governments are responsible for enforcement of this legislation. From time to time, the States have been requested to take strict action in this regard.

Statement

Estimated number of Beedi workers

Sl. No.	Region	Name of the State	Estimated No. of beedi workers	
			Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	94720	378879
		Tamil Nadu	125000	500000
2.	Kolkata	West Bengal	307538	1106592
		Assam	4451	3274
		Tripura	2776	7170
3.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	51200	204800
4.	Ajmer	Rajasthan	3600	35000
		Gujarat	33550	16450
5.	Karma	Jharkhand	91200	60800
		Bihar	118000	177000
6.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	90000	360000
7.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	434319	651478
		Chhattisgarh	8111	14418
8.	Bangalore	Karnataka	37777	223873
		Kerala	24011	72318

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	75000	225000
	TOTAL:		1501253	4037052
	GRAND TOTAL:		5538305	

Growing number of job seekers

3033. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of educated and uneducated youth/job seekers has been growing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of educated/uneducated/graduate/post graduate etc. registered in employment exchanges in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise and category-wise;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide employment to these unemployed youth; and

(e) the fresh steps being taken by Government to eradicate unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Number of educated (10th pass and above) job seekers including youth on the live register of employment exchanges, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, was 306.50 lakh in the country as on 31.12.2007 whereas the corresponding figure as on 31.12.2006 was 306.91 lakh.

(c) State-wise number of educated, uneducated, graduate/post graduate and uneducated job-seekers registered with the employment exchanges during 2005, 2006 and 2007 is given in Statement-I and category-wise number of educated and uneducated job seekers registered with the employment exchanges during 2005, 2006 and 2007 is given in Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities. Government has taken several steps to tackle the problem of unemployment. The focus is on productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are likely to be created on account of growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports and expenditure on employment generation programmes implemented by the Government. Government of India has been implementing various employment generation schemes to provide additional employment opportunities. Some of the Important ones are Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).